to know as to what are the norms which you have fixed for coverage of the various political programmes?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS Mr Speaker, Sir, ours is a country of yatras At times, political parties, undertake yatra for political reasons and at some time, other yatras are conducted In this country of yatras every kind of yatra cannot be given coverage However, for the information of the house,I would like to present the important points for the coverage of the various national political happenings before the House Political activities are covered on the basis of their news value News relating to all political parties are reported impartially and in the same bulletin different point of views are covered to give adequate and ample coverage to it

SHRI RAM VILLAS PASWAN Do you think that Nyaya Jyoti does not have any importance which was stated from 6th December on the birth centenary day of Baba Saheb Ambedakar and is going to reach here on 14th of April

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS I am not refuting that

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Because it is related to the Dalits the poor and the scheduled castes is that the reason that it does not have any importance? Why has it not been given any coverage? I have written a letter in connection with this to the hon'ble Minister It has not been given any coverage although it started on 6th of December Has the Nyaya Jyoti not got any importance from your point of view?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS Whenever any political Yatra will have news value, we will try to show such yatras but its newsworthiness is essential (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Chasnala Mines

* 167 SHRI PIUS TIRKEY Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the mining work has recommened in Chasnala mines of Bharat Coking Coal,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the experts from India, Germany and Poland following the Chasnala tragedy,

(d) the extent to which these recommendations have been implemented,

(e) whether a large number of labourers working therein are suffering from Pneumoconis, and

(f) if so, the arrangements made for their treatment?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) No, Sir Mining operation in the Chasnala Deep Mine (of Indian Iron and Steel Company) are yet to recommence work only on recovery, rehabilitation and development of the mine is in progress

(c) and (d) After the tragedy occurred in December,1975 in the mine studies were conducted by Indian agencies and M/s MONTAN of Germany No other foreign agency conoucted any study The recommendations made by the India agencies were

(i) To make arrangements for tapping of water from the old workings,

(ii) To survey the old workings, and

(iii) To appoint an expert foreign

consultant for reopening the mine, since no such expertise was indigenously available.

These recommendations have been implemented by IISCO.

M/s. MONTAN of Germany recommended the following:

(i) IISCO should either prove the thickness of the barrier between the old and new workings in the first horizon or lower the first horizon by 10 meters and make concrete dams to plug the present workings in coal.

IISCO has almost completed survey of the old workings and proved the barrier. Remaining part of the work is in progress.

(ii) IISCO should go in for experimental mining operations based on M/s. MONTAN's mine planning, so that they could develop most suitable methodology of operations and machinery.

This work is in progress and is likely to be completed before May, 1994.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) However IISCO is setting up an Occupational Health Centre at Chasnala for detection of and treatment for pneumoconiosis and other occupational diseases, keeping in view the necessity for reopening the mine.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact the Chasnala Coal Mines produce the best quality of coal in the country and also whether the most dangerous and poisonous gas is present there. Apart from these, there is always the possibility of a fire or flood. Keeping these factories in mind has the government made any permanent arrangement to prevent the recurrence of any such accident? How much amount has been allocated for it and by which time the coal mine would be modernised? How much coal is expected to be produced, once it is modernise?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir it is a fact that the prime coking coal which is available in the Chasnala mines is the best coal available at present in the country . It is also a fact that the Government has taken steps to re-activate this particular Chasnala Coal Mines and after a thorough study, global tender was called. A German firm upon section , came forward and submitted their report. Necessary sanction has been given to SAIL to implement that report. The commercial production will start from 1994-95. From 1993-94, pre-commercial production will start. Once it is totally activated on commercial lines by 2003 A.D. one million tonnes of prime coking coal will be available annually. It will be used by the Steel plants.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir in the tragedy that occured in 1975 at the Chasnala Coal Mines 375 people had lost their lives inside the mines. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the amount of compensation disbursed to the families of the deceased. Further, what steps the Government has taken or propose to take to check the increasing pollution in the area?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a fact that a tragic incident took the tell of the lives of 375 persons. We have, in the mean time given job to the dependants of the deceased numbering 396. IISCO gave a compensation of Rs.73,79,900. There is a Coal Mines Provident Fund to which the Government of Bihar also contributes. They have disbussed Rs. 40,32000/- AT an aver-

age, it came to over Rs. 30, 000 per casualty Apart from that, we are also, in this particular scheme for revitalisation. The training will be given to the existing staff so that they can work in the mechanised from of mining which is going to take place in the new scheme

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI Mr Speaker, Sir, Rs 12 crores are spent annually on the import of coking Coal Even though 17 years have passed after the Chasnala tragedy, the government has been spending a huge amount on import of Coking coal, all along I would like to know from the hon Minister whether it is not possible to utilise this money to make the Chasnala mines operational within one or tow years The second part of my question is that people working there fall victim to a peculiar kind of is disease It was suggested that a health centre should be opened to provide treatment to these people However, a health centre has not been opened even after 17 years of that targedy, Is the Government in possession of any figures relating to the total number of people affected by this disease and does the Government propose to provide any assistance to the families of those who have lost their lives due to this disease?

[*English*]

SHRI SONT OSH MOHAN DEV This Colliery has its peculiantices It is steeply inclined and highly grassy From a study it is known that up to 500 metres 76 4 million tonnes of coal is available But commer cially, we can go up to the level of 43 96 million tonnes of production and not beyond that As hon, Member has said, it is right that it is taking too long a time But unformtunately there was a death toll of 375 persons there because of the poor record keeping and poor knowlege of the position of worked mines on the part of the management New we are taking steps,on the securing of which some as alrady been done and on some other parts of securing the barrier is going on where there is water so that we are able to plug the loopholes and we are not taking any chance That is way we have involved for eign experts Once we are completely satisfied about the safety of workers, then only we will go for production Though we are losing time yet we are not taking any chance

About the other question of ailment, yes, there are certain ailments like lung diseases or tuberculosis which are hazardous and IISCO has already taken steps to have a specialised treatment centre for th steel plants as well as the coal mines we will take are to see that whatever medical facilities are necessary, they will be given by the IISCO

Concessions to Attract More Tourists

* 168 SHRI RABI RAY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a programme to attract more tourists,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the concessions which Government propose to offer to the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(SHRI M O H FAROOK) (a) and (b) The promotion of tourist traffic to India is a continuous process which include development of tourism infrastructure, publicity campaingns in the overseas markets cul tural programmes, seminars etc and inviting travel trade and media representatives to India under the hospital schemes

(c) Concessions/special packwage tours are offered by hotels, airlines and tour organ iser in the off seasons which various from tim to time

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY I would like to ask the hon Miniser whether it is a fact that there has beeen a decline in the revenu earnings from